**Acute drought in Saurashtra**

*678. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports about the acute drought, water scarcity and famine conditions in Saurashtra especially Kutch;

(b) if so, what is the latest information and assessment of Government about the magnitude and dimensions of the drought situation and whether Government have had an independent survey of the situation by sending a Central Team; and

(c) what Central aid has been demanded by the State Government of Gujarat and that given by the Central Government for drought relief measures?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) to (c) Government of Gujarat have so far declared 2419 villages in 31 taluks in 5 districts as drought affected areas after the south-west monsoon of 1993. District-wise details are given below:-

| District | No. of Taluks | No. of Villages declared drought affected |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Kutch | 9 | 956 |
| 2. Jamnagar | 10 | 674 |
| 3. Junagadh | 3 | 113 |
| 4. Rajkot | 5 | 425 |
| 5. Bhavnagar | 4 | 251 |
| TOTAL: | 31 | 2419 |

Under the existing Scheme of Financing Relief Expenditure, Government of Gujarat is required to provide necessary relief to the affected population using the corpus of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). The State of Gujarat has an annual Calamity Relief Fund of Rs. 85.00 crores, out of which, Rs. 63.75 crores is contributed by the Government of India. Apart from the entire Central share of CRF for the year 1993-94, Government of India has since released the first instalment of CRF for the year 1994-95 amounting to Rs. 15.9375 crores. The State Government has not requested for any additional assistance for relief measures in the wake of existing drought conditions, Government of India has not deputed any Central Team to assess the situation.

**Conception of NCR Plan**

*679. SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the concept behind the National Capital Region (NCR) plan;

(b) what benefits have been derived therefrom so far;

(c) whether the development of NCR is progressing according to the plan; and